

Region 3 Fire Danger Outlook

4/25/19. Covering the period 4/25-5/1/19

Cabe Speary, Fire Environment Forester, 252-325-3089

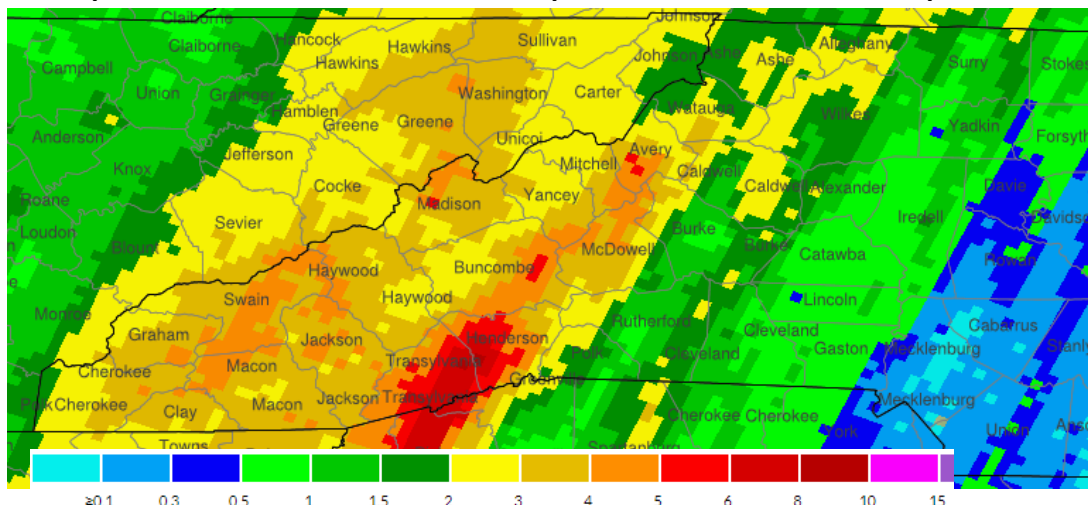
Weather Outlook

- A front stalled across the region will lift north as a warm front today as low pressure tracks through the Mid-Mississippi and Ohio Valleys. A cold front will cross the Mid-Atlantic region on Friday followed by high pressure on Saturday. Showers and storms will result in widespread wetting rainfall on Friday followed by a round of gusty northwest winds Friday afternoon and night. A fast moving low pressure system will bring another cold front across the area later Sunday resulting in the next round of showers. Drier weather returns under high pressure for Monday through the remainder of the period. For May 2-May 8, there is a 40-50% chance of **above** normal precipitation for the counties that border TN and VA, then a 33-40% chance of **above** normal precipitation for the remainder of the region.
- Minimum RH will be in the mid-30s for today, climbing to the 50s for tomorrow and dropping to back to the mid-30s for Saturday. For the remainder of the period, expect 45-55%.
- Winds will generally be S/SW under 10 MPH for today. Expect 10-15 MPH with gusts to 35 on the ridge tops for Friday. On Saturday, gusty W winds of 15-25 MPH for the mountains, with 10-15 for the piedmont. For the remainder of the period, expect 5-15 primarily out of the southern quadrants. Mixing heights should be 6,500-7,500 feet today for the mountains, with 5,000-6,000 for the piedmont. For tomorrow, expect 6,000-7,500 feet for the entire region. Transport winds should be SW at 15-25 MPH today and W/NW at 25-50 MPH for tomorrow.
- High temperatures will be in the 70s-80 for today, dropping back to the low 60s-low 70s for Friday and Saturday, before returning to the 70s-low 80s for the remainder of the period. Through the period, lows will be in the low 40s to low-50s for the mountains and mid-40s to upper 50s for the piedmont. For May 2-May 8, there is a 50-60% chance of **above** normal temperatures for all except the northern part of D-2 which has a 40-50% chance of above **normal** precipitation.

Fire Activity (does not include federal ownership)

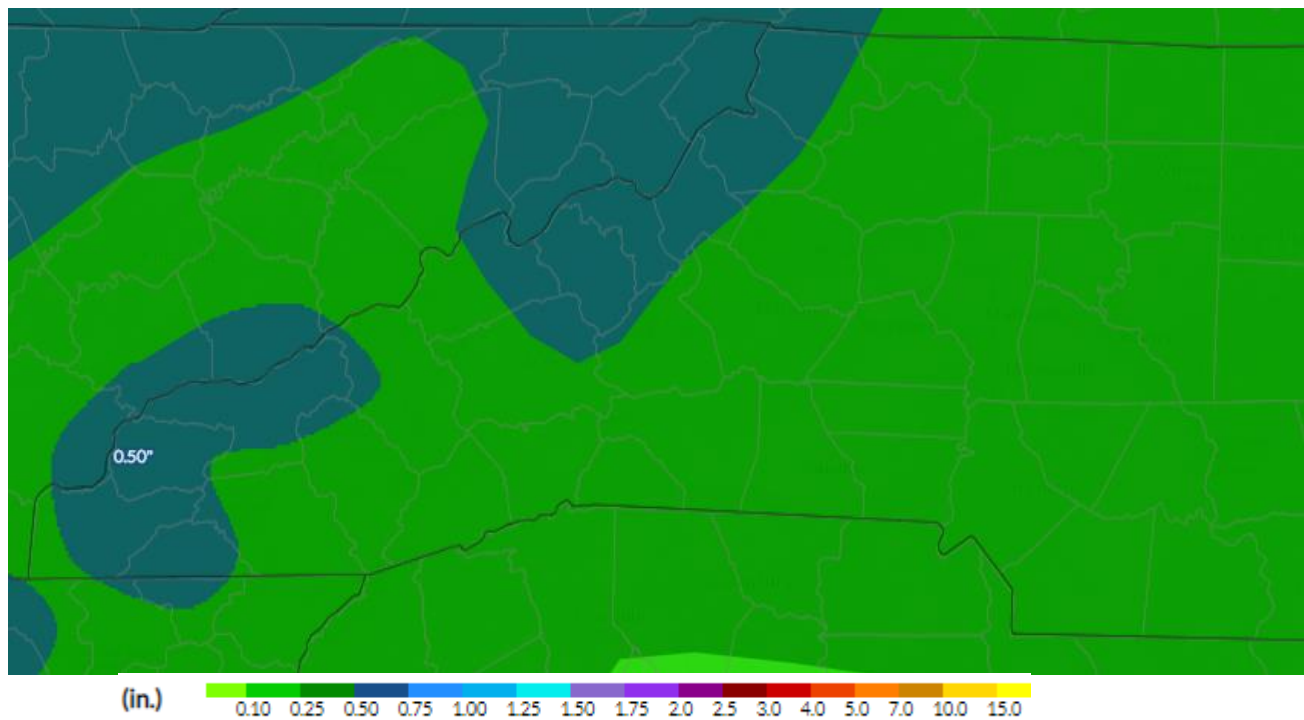
4/17-4/23	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Wildfire	10	8.1
Prescribed Fire	1	19

Precipitation Estimates for April 17th, 0800 to April 24th, 0800



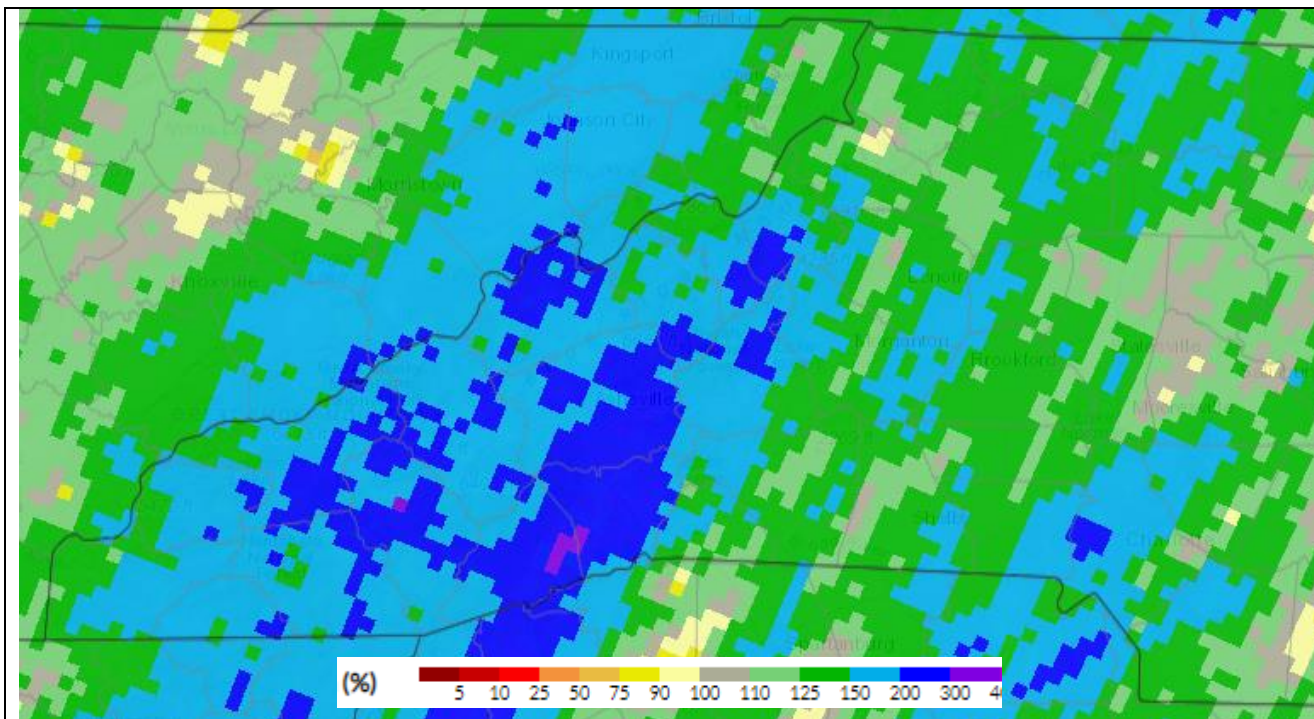
Good amounts, except in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus and Union where less than ½" fell

Forecast Precipitation, April 25th, 0800 to April 28th, 0800



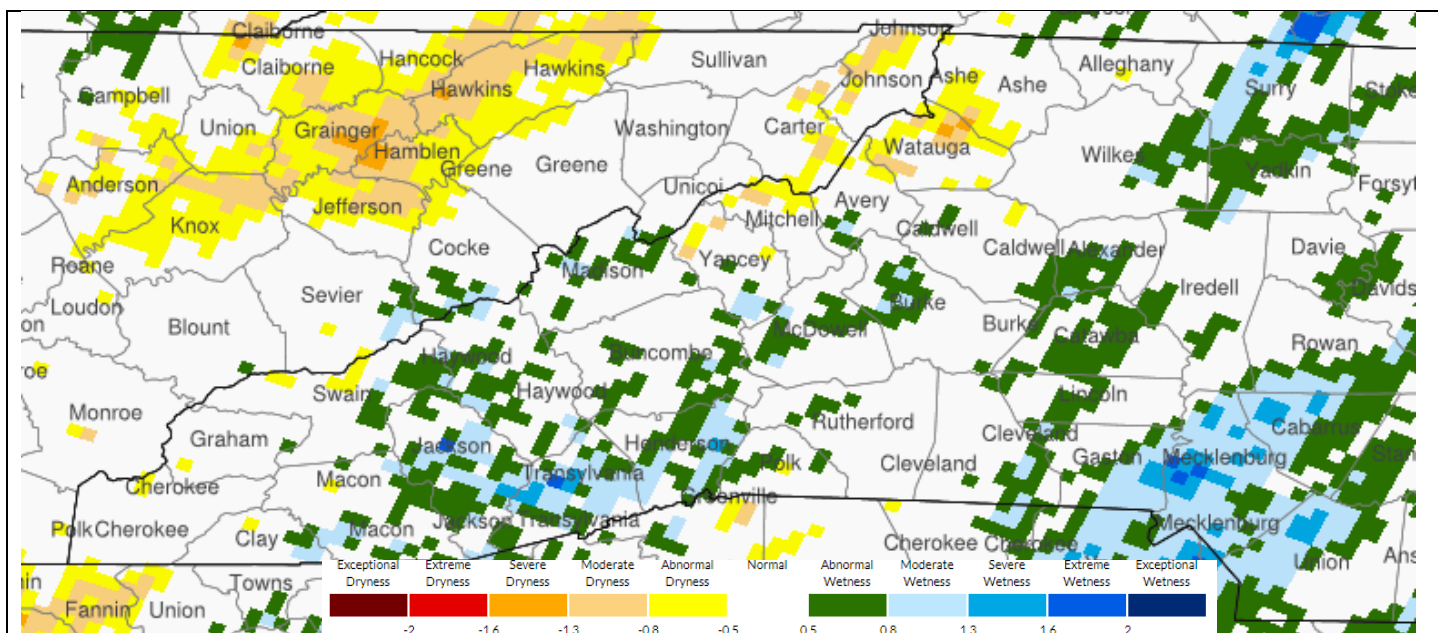
Less rain expected coming up over the next 3 days, and none expected in the rest of the period.

30 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation, March 17, 0800-April 16, 0800



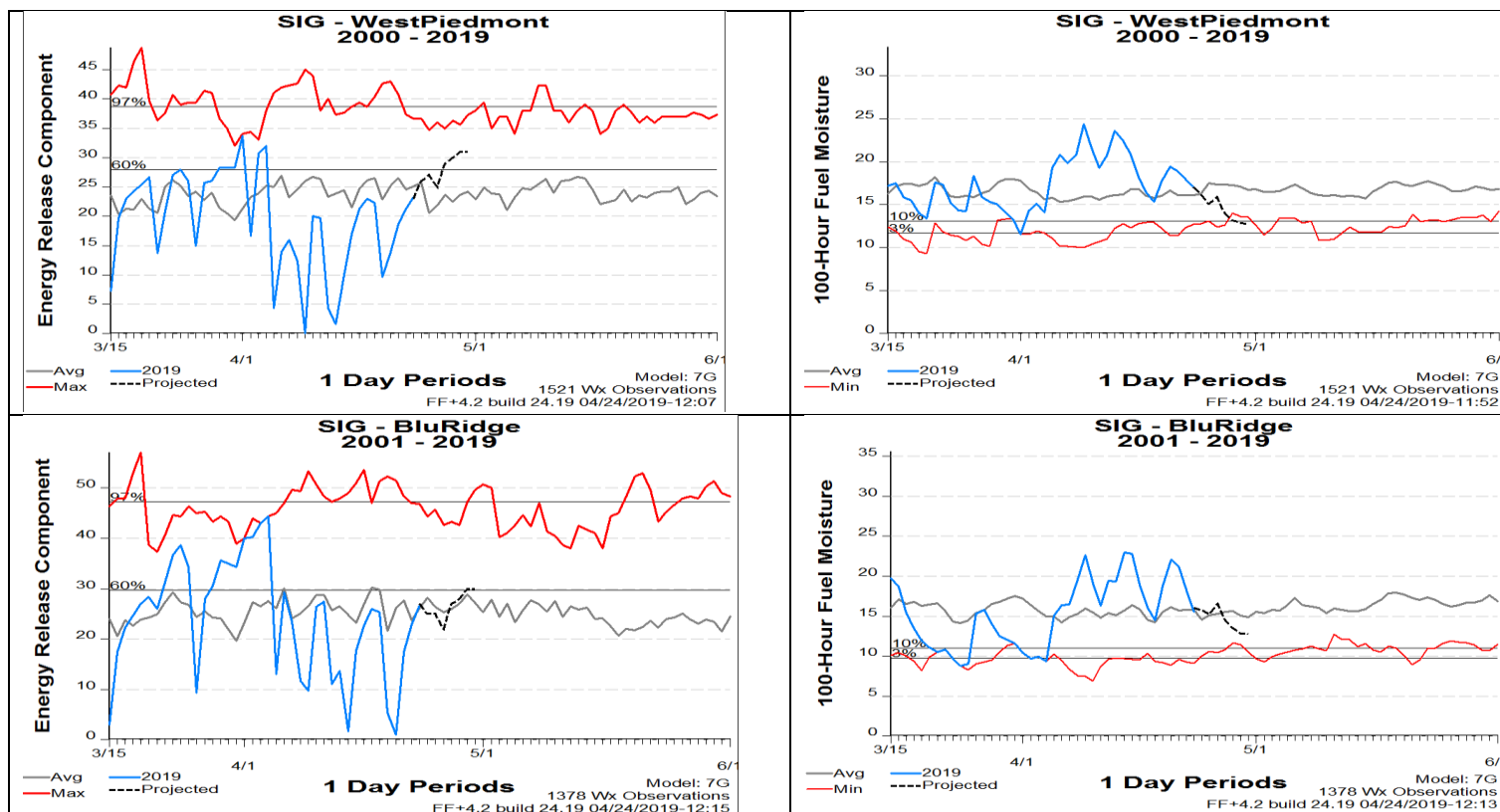
Looking very good over the short term. No dryness across the entire region.

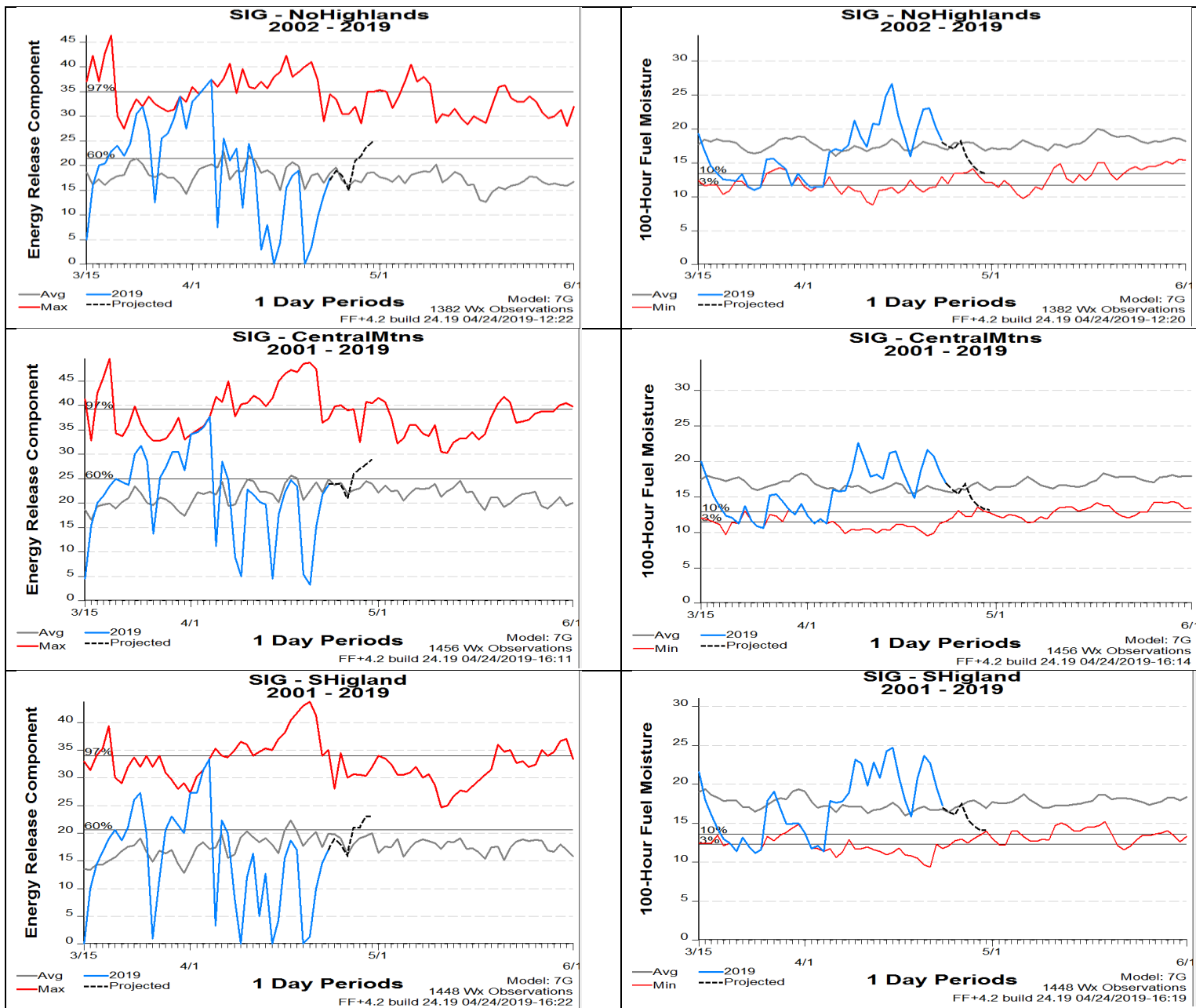
90 Day SPEI, January 24th, 0800-April 24, 0800



Over the longer term, the region is still in good shape, except some areas of D-2 and D-1. The Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) is based on the climate balance between precipitation (P) and potential evapotranspiration (PET). SPEI values represent standard deviations above or below the historical mean P minus PET value for the given timescale. Because SPEI incorporates a temperature component, it can identify droughts that are exacerbated by heat.

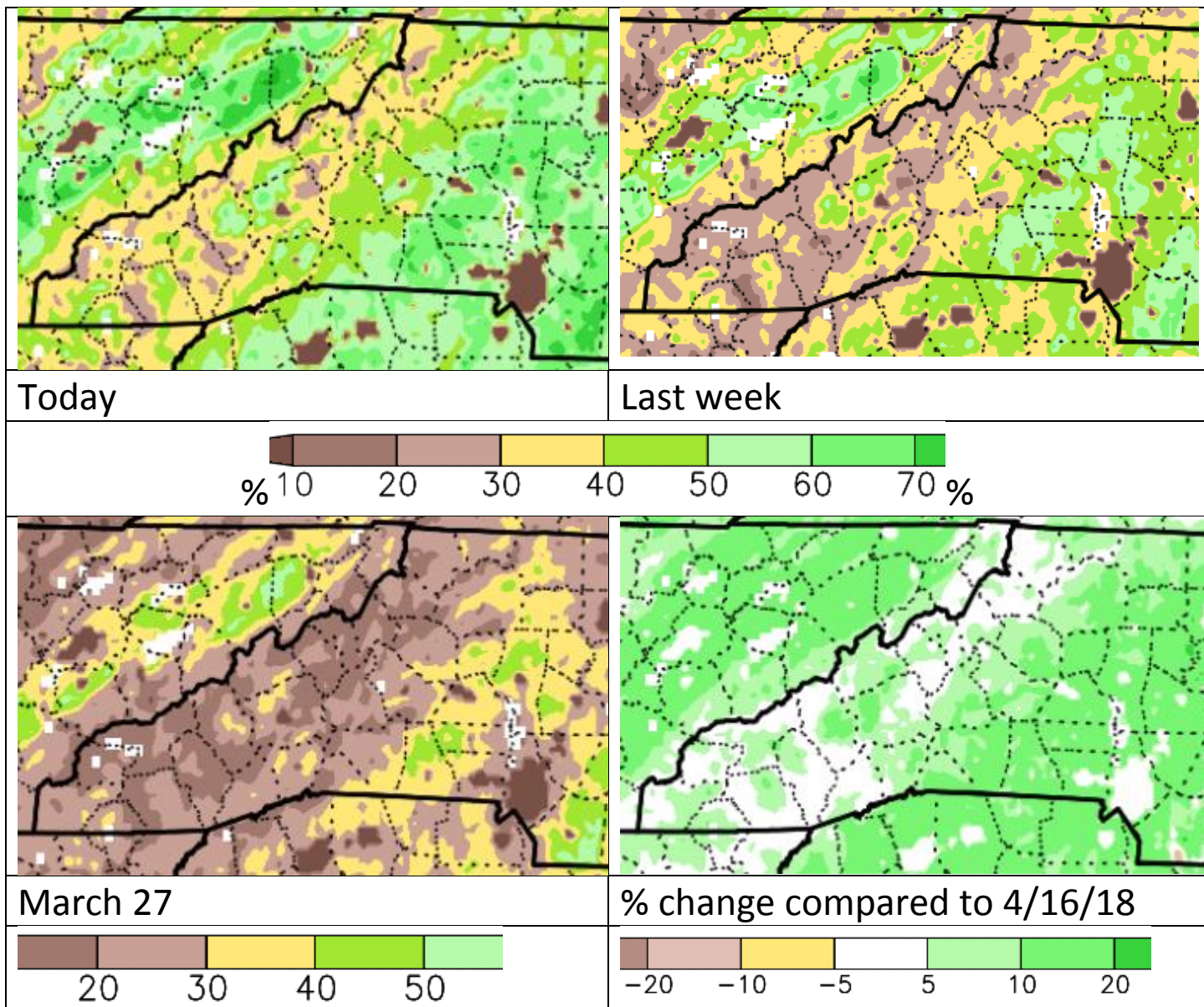
ERC and 100 HR Fuel Moisture Trends





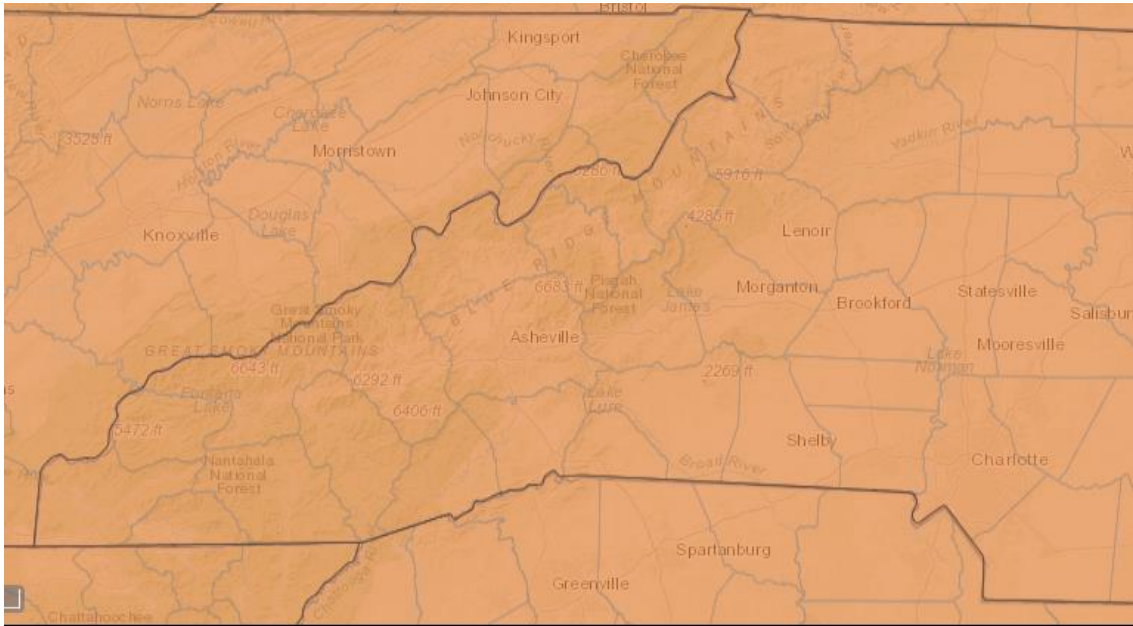
ERCs will be holding steady or slightly increasing through Thursday. They will drop with the rain Friday and Saturday, then increase again to above normal on Saturday through the remainder of the period. 100 HR FMs will be dropping considerably to near or below the minimum for the day near the end of the period, except Blue Ridge which will be below normal but not near the minimum for the day.

Green Vegetation Fraction (%)

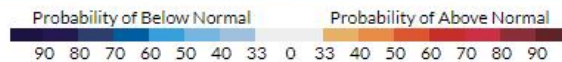


Greenup has accelerated in the past week, with much of the region ahead of last year. Only the highest elevations have not yet reached at least 30% greenup.

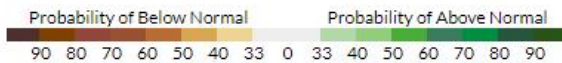
Long Term Forecast, May-July



CPC Temperature Outlook (%)



CPC Precipitation Outlook (%)



For Wednesday, May 1 to Wednesday, Jul 31

This forecast was issued Thursday, Apr 18

Source: [NWS Climate Prediction Center](https://www.noaa.gov/climate-prediction-center)